



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 21 December 2007

Current Nationwide



[For info click here](#)

- The Daily Reporter-Herald reports that about 600 people were evacuated from Agilent Technologies and five taken to the hospital after a cleaning chemical was spilled Wednesday morning. No one was seriously injured, and all five were later released from the hospital. (See item [5](#))
- According to the Boston Globe, a recently released criticizes Massachusetts for being just one of seven states that have not bought a single dose of drugs to combat a global influenza epidemic and for failing to ensure that its state laboratory has enough capacity to test for dangerous germs during health emergencies. (See item [22](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *December 20, Beacon Journal* – (Ohio) **Utility shut-offs blocked by state.** Natural gas and electric utilities regulated by the state will not be able to disconnect service for the next 90 days for customers who are at or below 175 percent of federal poverty guidelines. In a meeting Wednesday, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio approved what amounts to a limited moratorium on shut-offs for nonpayment of bills, as long as the customer meets income guidelines and enters into some type of payment plan with the utility or enrolls in the Percentage of Payment Plan (PIPP) or other commission-approved plan. The commission responded to a call from the state's governor, who asked for a moratorium on utility shut-offs during extreme cold weather. The commission stressed that its moratorium was not a free pass for customers not to pay

their bill, and commissioners encouraged customers to continue to pay as much of their bill as possible.

Source: <http://www.ohio.com/business/12652361.html>

2. *December 19, Daily Advance* – (North Carolina) **Blackwater's 120-foot turbine to power plant.** The world's largest private security firm now also owns the tallest electric-power generating turbine in North Carolina. Blackwater USA erected the 120-foot tower on its property in Camden County Wednesday. The company is spending up to \$175,000 to install the tower, but believes its electrical savings in the coming decades will far exceed the investment. Blackwater officials estimate the turbine will save \$9,000 to \$11,000 a year on energy costs, resulting in \$400,000 or more in electricity savings over the 40-year life of the turbine. The company is using the turbine primarily to generate electricity to power a manufacturing plant 250 yards from the turbine. The plant is Blackwater's biggest electricity user and manufactures The Grizzly armored personnel carrier.

Source:

<http://www.dailyadvance.com/news/content/news/stories/2007/12/19/1220turbinejh.html>

3. *December 19, Information Week* – (California) **Irate Unix administrator admits trying to sabotage California power grid.** A contract Unix system administrator pleaded guilty to trying to disrupt a data center where he was employed in Folsom, California, by hammering the safety glass of an emergency power shut-off, then pushing the shut-down button. The case drew the attention of the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force in Sacramento, California, because it involved an attempt to shut down a data center of the California Independent System Operator Corp., an electrical power consortium chartered by the state to manage the statewide energy grid. The incident occurred April 15 and disabled the data center for two hours. No blackouts occurred because of the interruption, but the agency's director of grid operations, told investigators that if the outage had happened in the morning, the "results would have been far more severe." The criminal complaint added that electric consumers in the western United States would have experienced disruption in their electrical supply.

Source:

<http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=40JRCR0HMLKX4QSNDL0SKHSCJUNN2JVN?articleID=205100250&subSection=News>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

4. *December 20, WLOX 13 Biloxi* – (Mississippi) **Chemical scare near old Marine Life complex.** Demolition at the old Marine Life site in Gulfport may be to blame for a chemical spill. Wednesday night, fire officials and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality responded to the Marine Life complex after reports of a strong chlorine smell. According to the Gulfport Fire Chief, crews cleaning the site may have punctured one of the tanks. Now officials are warning contractors to be extra careful before beginning demolition. "We discovered that there were several chlorine tanks, 150

pound tanks on the ground and one of them was leaking,” the chief said. Hazmat teams evacuated the area until all of the tanks were secured.

Source: <http://www.wlox.com/Global/story.asp?S=7522993&nav=6DJI>

5. *December 20, Daily Reporter-Herald* – (Colorado) **Five Agilent workers sent to medical center after bottle of cleaning chemicals breaks in lab.** About 600 people were evacuated from Agilent Technologies and five taken to the hospital after a cleaning chemical was spilled Wednesday morning. No one was seriously injured, and all five were later released from the hospital. An employee knocked over a glass bottle of toluene inside the main building, said an investigator with the Loveland, Colorado, Fire and Rescue Department. Ten people were in or very near the lab when the chemical spilled, said a spokeswoman for Agilent. All 10 were decontaminated by emergency medics, and five were taken to McKee Medical Center. Those transported to the hospital complained of watery, itchy eyes and raspy throats, and one reported breathing problems. All employees and contractors, about 600 people total, were evacuated, and hazardous materials specialists with the Loveland Special Operations Team and representatives of the Larimer County Health Department checked the building.

Source: http://www.reporterherald.com/news_story.asp?id=13857

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *December 20, Express-Times* – (Pennsylvania) **Utility proposes nuclear addition.** PPL Corp. will seek permission to build a third reactor at the atomic power plant it operates in northeastern Pennsylvania, the company announced Wednesday. PPL has hired UniStar Nuclear Energy LLC, a joint venture of Constellation Energy Group Inc. and France’s EDF Group, to prepare the application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission by the end of 2008. PPL said it has not decided whether to move forward with construction. “PPL would not undertake nuclear construction alone,” PPL’s executive vice president and chief operating officer, said in a statement. “Because of the large capital commitment required, we would proceed with nuclear construction only as part of some type of joint venture.” The two existing reactors at the Susquehanna plant were built in the 1980s at a cost of \$2 billion each. Together they are responsible for 25 percent of PPL’s annual output.

Source: <http://www.pennlive.com/business/expresstimes/index.ssf?/base/business-1/1198127156118340.xml&coll=2>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *December 20, Associated Press* – (National) **General Dynamics gets military contract.** General Dynamics Corp. said Thursday its land systems unit won a U.S. military contract worth \$257.8 million to provide materials to upgrade 180 Abrams tanks. Proceeds from the program could exceed \$320 million if all options are exercised, the defense contractor said. As part of the program, tanks are modified to include

improved displays, sights, power, and a tank-infantry phone, the company said. The work is expected to be completed within the year.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/071220/general_dynamics_contract.html?.v=1

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

8. *December 20, Associated Press* – (California) **Two women convicted in health care scam.** Two women were convicted for their roles in a \$34 million scam to defraud health care companies by billing for unnecessary medical procedures. The women worked as marketers for the Millennium Outpatient Surgery Center in Santa Ana, California. Prosecutors said the women offered cash and discounted cosmetic surgery to people who had private health insurance coverage in order to persuade them to undergo unnecessary and overpriced procedures. The women directed those they recruited to describe false and exaggerated symptoms to treating physicians at the clinic to obtain authorization and payment from health insurers for the unnecessary procedures, prosecutors said. The center then inflated claims to the insurance companies. Both are scheduled to be sentenced early next year.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2007/12/20/state/n021332S04.DTL>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

9. *December 20, Arizona Republic* – (Arizona) **Passengers' behavior leads to airport arrests.** Federal aviation officers with special training detecting suspicious behavior helped Phoenix police arrest three men at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport on December 4. The men tried to pass through a Terminal 4 security checkpoint with suspicious documents, a Phoenix police spokeswoman said.
Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/1220tsa1220.html>
10. *December 20, Associated Press* – (New York; National) **Bush plan for fewer flights to NYC aimed at reducing nationwide delays.** To speed holiday travel, the government plans to open military airspace to commercial traffic on the East and West Coasts. The Transportation secretary announced the changes at an air traffic command center in Virginia after months of closed-door wrangling with the airlines over how to curb air traffic around New York City's three major airports: John F. Kennedy International Airport, LaGuardia Airport, and Newark Liberty Airport in New Jersey. Officials said they hope to ease the impact of the changes by shifting more flights to off-peak, midday hours, and expected the overall number of daily flights in the area to rise. Under new rules that take effect in March, JFK will only be allowed 82 or 83 flights per hour at the peak times, down significantly from the 90 to 100 that had been scheduled this past summer. Similar caps will go into effect at Newark, but the exact number has yet to be determined. LaGuardia already has limits on flights. The New York airport caps were immediately criticized by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which

operates the region's three major airports. The Port Authority executive director said the FAA was "simply wrong" about the capacity at JFK, which he said is capable of handling as many as 100 flights per hour. Limiting the number of flights at popular travel times may lead to higher ticket prices, or force some people to travel at inconvenient times, he said.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,317563,00.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

11. *December 19, Daily Herald* – (Illinois) **Briefs: Letter sparks powder scare.** Police and fire crews responded to an apartment at about 11:30 a.m. Tuesday after a man opened a credit card application and white powder spilled out. Fire department tests determined the powder was 98 percent cornstarch and investigators were checking with the credit card firm about the powder's origins. Police said the powder did not present a danger and authorities consider it an isolated incident.

Source: <http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=98145&src=5>

12. *December 19, WDEF 12 Chattanooga* – (Georgia) **Fort Oglethorpe city employees get a scare.** A suspicious letter and a white powder caused a scare in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, on November 19. Haz-mat crews were called in around 3:00 p.m. after the letter, addressed to the Municipal Court Clerk, was delivered to the courthouse. Part of the courthouse was closed off while the substance was removed. The employee who handled the letter is being treated as a precaution while the substance is analyzed at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

Source: http://wdef.com/news/fort_oglethorpe_city_employees_get_a_scare/12/2007

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

13. *December 20, WSYR 9 Syracuse* – (California; Illinois; Texas) **Possible Salmonella contamination forces recall.** Top Line Specialty Produce is recalling Green Paradise Fresh Italian Basil because of possible Salmonella contamination. The recalled "Green Paradise Basil" was distributed to Food Service Distributors through direct shipping on December 6, 2007 in Southern California, Illinois, and Texas. The product comes in a 12 x 1 pound box marked with lot # 1219 on the side of the box. No illnesses have been reported.

Source: http://www.9wsyr.com/news/recalls/story.aspx?content_id=beeede0b-a8ee-4ea2-88ca-b215e4328284

14. *December 19, United Press International* – (National) **USDA working for better livestock tracing.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture proposed a business plan Wednesday for advancing animal disease traceability. The National Animal Identification System utilizes premises registration, animal identification, and animal tracing components to locate potentially diseased animals and eliminate animals from

disease suspicion, the agency said. The goal is to be able to track livestock back to their original location with 48 hours using the National Animal Identification System. In a news release, the USDA said that the “threat of a catastrophic animal disease outbreak is real” and that it is in “the best interest of producers, the industry, and the government to be prepared.” For more information see the USDA’s website at:

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/_s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?contentidonly=true&contentid=2007/12/0380.xml.

Source:

http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/Science/2007/12/19/usda_working_for_better_livestock_tracing/7810/

15. *December 19, Agence France-Presse* – (National) **US biotech firms launch tracking system for cloned livestock.** U.S. biotechnology firms launched Wednesday a program to track cloned cattle and pigs in anticipation of the possible end of a moratorium on meat and milk from cloned livestock. The Biotechnology Industry Association (BIO), which represents leading cloning companies, said the system would allow food companies to track cloned livestock throughout the food processing chain and address market concerns. The tracking system was launched one year after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said in a draft risk assessment that meat and milk from cloned animals were safe for human consumption, bringing such products closer to supermarket shelves. Under the system, each cloned animal will get a unique ID that will be entered into a registry that can be checked by the livestock auction market or packers and processors. Once a cloned animal is delivered, the owner must commit to properly market the meat or milk produced from it.

Source:

http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=071219230548.8totg62q&show_article=1

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

16. *December 19, Associated Press* – (Kansas; Nebraska) **Kansas makes water demands on Nebraska.** Kansas threatened a court fight Wednesday unless Nebraska reduces the amount of water it takes from the Republican River and pays an undetermined amount for allegedly taking too much water in the past. Kansas charged that Nebraska’s water use exceeded what it was allowed under an interstate agreement for the years 2005 and 2006 by about 27 billion gallons — enough to supply a city of 100,000 for 10 years. Water use from the Republican River is governed by a 2003 decree from the U.S. Supreme Court, which approved a settlement among Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado of a lawsuit that Kansas filed in 1998. A 1943 agreement among the three states allocated 49 percent of the river’s water to Nebraska, 40 percent to Kansas and 11 percent to Colorado. The 1998 lawsuit alleged that Nebraska had violated that compact by allowing the drilling of thousands of irrigation wells along the river and its tributaries. If Kansas’ demand to cut irrigation is met, it would mean the shutting down of wells supplying about 500,000 acres of the roughly 1.2 million irrigated acres in Nebraska’s portion of the Republican River Basin. Even though the three states settled the 1998 lawsuit, Nebraska and Kansas officials have disagreed over the method of calculating

each state's allowed water usage. Kansas has no plans to make similar demands of Colorado because it is not out of compliance.

Source:

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hltCkdxXV0yT5p1upAdyqKe8y7_QD8TKMIJG1

17. *December 19, Raleigh Chronicle* – (North Carolina) **Durham taps into rock quarry for water.** The city of Durham says that to extend its lowering supply of drinking water, it is tapping into a rock quarry lake this week. According to the city, Teer Quarry has been a “long-planned resource” for water that will provide around 7 million gallons of water per day. The city is tapping into 600 million gallons currently stored in the quarry, which will give the city another an estimated 30 days of water supply. With the rock quarry tap-on, the city estimates it now has a total of 128 days of water supply left.

Source:

<http://raleigh2.com/default.asp?sourceid=&smenu=1&twindow=&mad=&sdetail=252&wpage=1&skeyword=&sidate=&ccat=&ccatm=&restate=&restatus=&reoption=&retype=&repmin=&repmax=&rebed=&rebath=&subname=&pform=&sc=2502&hn=raleigh2&he=.com>

18. *December 18, WKYT 27 Lexington* – (Kentucky) **Crews work to clean up diesel fuel leak in creek.** Firefighters and haz-mat crews spent much of the afternoon on Tuesday working to contain a diesel fuel leak in a Fayette County, Kentucky, creek. They say thousands of gallons of fuel could be in the water. Crews put booms in the water to help with the clean-up. They act like sponges to soak up the fuel sitting on the surface of the water and keep it from flowing downstream. Workers say the diesel fuel is leaking from an underground tank upstream that still has about 3,000 gallons of fuel inside. While the leak is cause for concern from an environmental standpoint, haz-mat crews say it will not impact the water supply. They also say recent heavy rains are helping to dilute the fuel as it flows downstream.

Source: <http://www.wkyt.com/news/headlines/12606891.html>

19. *December 18, Associated Press* – (California) **Water demand sinking SoCal valley.** In California, parts of the Coachella Valley have sunk more than a foot in a decade as groundwater was sucked up to feed a thirsty economy. A study released this week has left officials scrambling to keep the tap on without jeopardizing more than 120 world-class golf resorts or slowing a population that has ballooned by 25 percent in just five years. Scientists with the water district and the U.S. Geological Survey found that the earth sank anywhere from several inches to more than 13 inches at a dozen locations between 1996 and 2005, including in Indian Wells, La Quinta, Palm Desert, and Coachella. Other places in California have sunk deeper, but they are so rural that there was no significant damage to structures. The San Joaquin Valley in Central California sank about 30 feet in 50 years and the Antelope Valley, north of Los Angeles, has sunk about 6 feet. The study also found a shortfall of billions of gallons of water in the aquifer, primarily as a result of growth that has pushed gated communities farther into the harsh desert on the eastern edge of the crescent-shaped valley. The area averages less than 3 inches of rainfall a year. Water officials are pursuing a range of solutions to ease the pressure on the aquifer, from a giant pipeline to import water for golf courses to

giving away timers to regulate home sprinklers. Though there has not been any damage, there are fears that if more is not done, the uneven turf eventually could fracture sewer lines, crack roads, and crumble foundations, costing taxpayers millions of dollars in repairs.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hYOyU12ULoyeDqFstnCczEqdaatwD8TKNPF80>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

20. *December 20, Associated Press* – (New York) **NYC health officials monitoring stomach virus.** New York City health officials say a common infection called norovirus has nearly doubled visits to the emergency room in recent weeks -- from 300 a day to nearly 500 visits a day since November. Patients are coming to the hospital complaining of vomiting and diarrhea. City health officials say that New Yorkers should stay home when they are sick and wash their hands frequently. They say the stomach virus usually clears up in a few days. Other symptoms include nausea, stomach cramps, fever, and fatigue.

Source: <http://www.1010wins.com/NYC-Health-Officials-Monitoring-Stomach-Virus/1368229>

21. *December 20, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Mumps outbreak worries Mass. officials.** Massachusetts health authorities are on high alert for cases of the mumps, the painful viral illness that has reemerged in Maine and Maritime Canada in recent months, despite decades of vaccinations. Before the outbreak, Maine had not reported a case in at least 20 years. Now mumps has spread across the state, reaching its southernmost county and making nearly 75 children and adults sick statewide since September. Specialists in Massachusetts are watching the migration of mumps with increasing concern, knowing that many of the patients in Maine and Canada are college students, a group particularly susceptible because they are mobile and live in tight quarters, an ideal combination for disease transmission. Disease specialists from Maine and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are continuing to investigate exactly where the virus came from, running sophisticated genetic testing and conducting extensive interviews.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/12/20/mumps_outbreak_worries_mass_officials/

22. *December 19, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Mass. has yet to buy drugs for epidemic.** While the Trust for America's Health, a nonprofit health advocacy group, praised Massachusetts in its annual report card for fulfilling seven of ten emergency planning goals, it criticized the state for being just one of seven that has not bought a single dose of drugs to combat a global influenza epidemic and for failing to ensure that its state laboratory has enough capacity to test for dangerous germs during health emergencies. On the best days, Massachusetts hospitals have barely enough beds and ventilators to handle the regular patient load, and they would be staggered by an

onslaught of flu patients in an epidemic, state officials acknowledge. While an adviser to the state's public health commissioner on emergency preparedness pledged that the state will ultimately purchase flu medications, there is no agreement on how many doses of drugs such as Tamiflu and Relenza will be stashed away. The medical community is still debating the effectiveness of the drugs and whether it is sound to invest in medications with a five- to seven-year shelf life. All states, even those without their own stockpiles, would receive medication from a national reserve in the case of a global flu epidemic, called a pandemic. With a population of more than 6.4 million, Massachusetts would be expected to get about 1 million doses from the U.S. government.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/12/19/mass_has_yet_to_buy_drugs_for_epidemic/?rss_id=Boston.com+--+Latest+news

Government Facilities Sector

23. *December 20, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Gun found in South Bend school, 5 arrested.** Five students were taken into custody Wednesday after a loaded handgun was found in a book bag inside a locker at a school in Joseph County, Indiana. The 9 mm handgun was found after the students displayed it on the bus as they traveled to the Greene Intermediate Center, just southwest of South Bend. The five had an ongoing dispute with another group of students, the police said. The school was placed on lockdown for about 90 minutes. As of late Wednesday afternoon, police were still trying to determine which of the students brought the gun to school or how it was obtained.

Source:

<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071220/LOCAL/712200508/1196/LOCAL>

24. *December 19, Lexington Herald-Leader* – (Kentucky) **Fireworks go off at Pike County high school; 6 sent to hospital.** A Pike County high school student was injured in an explosion Wednesday that also sent five other students to a hospital as a precaution. A Kentucky State Police spokesman said the 16-year-old girl brought some recreational fireworks to Phelps High School. About 10 a.m., the fireworks exploded in her pocket as she sat down in a classroom. Fourteen students who were in the classroom when the fireworks exploded were examined. Five complained of hearing problems and were checked at a hospital. Students were dismissed from the school. Authorities planned to bring in a bomb dog to search the rest of the building.

Source: <http://www.kentucky.com/181/story/263281.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

25. *December 19, Huntsville Times* – (Alabama) **Alabama air evac crew to get night vision goggles.** Navigating Northeast Alabama's mountainous terrain in a helicopter at night can be treacherous, but Air Evac Lifeteam helicopter crews will soon be equipped

to see in total darkness as if it were daylight. A pilot for Air Evac at its Scottsboro base said crews have been training with night vision goggles for two weeks. The Scottsboro base is expected to receive the goggles early next year. The device, which looks like a small pair of binoculars attached to a flight helmet, “improves safety by allowing us to see natural and manmade objects” such as power lines in the dark, he said Tuesday. Air Evac, which has 76 air ambulance bases around the country, recently bought the goggles after getting approval from the Federal Aviation Administration. “The goggles will allow the crews to better visualize hazards when landing at sites, particularly when identifying the helipad and any surrounding hazards, said the manager of the Scottsboro base. “It also gives us increased capability to locate lost persons during search efforts,” she said. The pilot said the device is a passive light amplification system that takes natural light from the stars and/or moon and manmade light from the helicopter's search light and other sources and amplifies it 6,000 times. He also said all crew members, including a nurse and paramedic, will wear the goggles when flying at night because everyone is helping the pilot to look out for hazards, especially during landing.

Source: <http://www.emsresponder.com/online/article.jsp?siteSection=1&id=6737>

26. *December 19, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **LSU emergency text failure traced to registration process.** The failure of a Louisiana State University emergency text message service to notify many students about a double murder at a campus apartment last week has been traced to the registration process for the service, university officials said. The problem arose when people registered their telephone information for the service on an LSU Web site, Personal Access Web Services, but apparently did not take the necessary next step: linking from the PAWS site to the Web site of clearTXT — the North Carolina company that provides the emergency alert technology — to select the texting option, LSU’s chief information officer said Tuesday. Administrators also said that the new system had not yet been tested, so the problem did not become apparent until officials used the system for the first time, attempting to notify the campus community about the fatal shootings of two doctoral students late Thursday night. Campus officials at the LSU Emergency Operations Center sent out a text message early Friday morning. A “full-scale test” of the system is scheduled January 18, the CIO said. He also said that everyone who has already used PAWS to sign up for the program is now included in the clearTXT database for future alerts, including the January 18 test. Source: <http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/12631371.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology

27. *December 20, SearchSecurity.com* – (National) **Critical Virus spreads on Google’s Orkut network.** About 400,000 members of Google’s Orkut social network have been the victims of a spam barrage spreading the W32/KutWormor virus. The virus is hidden in a spam message containing a New Year’s greeting in Portuguese. Once infected, the virus spreads using hidden JavaScript and Flash code by sending the same message to connected Orkut members. It also adds the victim to an Orkut community group called “Infected by Orkut Virus.” Meanwhile, analysts with security vendor BitDefender have detected a new Trojan that hijacks Google text advertisements, replacing them with ads

from a different provider. Trojan.Qhost.WU modifies the infected computer's hosts file. The modified file contains a line of code that causes the browser to read ads from a server at the given replacement address rather than from Google. "This is a serious situation that damages users and Webmasters alike," said a BitDefender virus analyst, in a statement. "Users are affected because the advertisements and/or the linked sites may contain malicious code, which is a very likely situation, given that they are promoted using malware in the first place. Webmasters are affected because the Trojan takes away viewers and thus a possible money source from their websites."

Source:

http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/originalContent/0,289142,sid14_gci1286935,00.html

28. *December 19, SearchSecurity.com* – (National) **Critical security patch for Adobe Flash Player.** Adobe Systems Inc. released a massive security update Tuesday to address multiple flaws in its popular Adobe Flash Player. Danish vulnerability clearinghouse Secunia, which outlined 10 vulnerabilities in an advisory, called the flaws "highly critical" and warned that attackers could exploit the flaws to hijack targeted machines and gain extra user privileges, bypass security restrictions, launch cross-site scripting attacks, disclose sensitive data, and cause a denial of service. Adobe Flash Player is a multimedia application used with Microsoft Windows, Mozilla, and Apple platforms. Adobe said in its APSB07-20 security advisory that the flaws affect Adobe Flash Player 9.0.48.0 and earlier, 8.0.35.0 and earlier, and 7.0.70.0 and earlier on all platforms. The vendor recommended users update to version 9.0.115.0. For Secunia's advisory, please see: <http://secunia.com/advisories/28161/>.

Source:

http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/originalContent/0,289142,sid14_gci1286750,00.html?track=syl60&asrc=RSS_RSS-10_160

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

29. *December 19, RCR Wireless News* – (National) **WiMAX certification lab opens.** The WiMAX Forum has opened its first, and lead, lab to formally test and evaluate mobile WiMAX products for certification. With the lab now open for submissions, certified mobile WiMAX products are projected to hit the commercial market in the coming months. The vice president of marketing at the WiMAX Forum said that these "certifications will lead to an explosion of services and commercial availability in 2008." The forum is anticipating a two- to three-month timeline for each device's certification. Everything from base stations to feature-rich devices will be tested for

interoperability, power control, minimum uplink and downlink speeds, and numerous other parameters defined by the organization.

Source:

<http://www.rcrnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071219/FREE/733844717/1007/rss01>

30. *December 19, Seattle Times* – (Washington) **Southeast Seattle residents without phone service.** A few hundred Qwest telephone customers in Southeast Seattle have lost phone service and may be without it through the weekend, a Qwest spokeswoman said Wednesday. A non-Qwest contractor in the area inadvertently drilled into a piece of Qwest equipment Tuesday, causing the outage. Qwest technicians are working to restore service but it will take time to replace the underground equipment and do the necessary splicing. “It’s not a situation where we can make a fix at one spot and everything will go on at the same time,” the spokeswoman said.

Source:

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2004083030_webqwest19m.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

31. *December 20, Greeley Tribune* – (Colorado) **Outlet businesses evacuated for bomb investigation.** Seven businesses at the Outlets of Loveland in Colorado had to be evacuated Wednesday evening while police investigated a suitcase left in the parking lot. Loveland police said no explosives were discovered in the suitcase, left propped against a car that belonged to a district manager of a store at the shopping center. The manager had told police he had terminated an employee earlier in the day and was concerned about the contents of the suitcase. Loveland police called the Northern Colorado Bomb Squad and evacuated businesses in the immediate area of Wilson’s Leather Outlet.

Source: <http://www.greeleytrib.com/article/20071220/NEWS/864026455>

32. *December 20, WMAQ 5 Chicago* – (Illinois) **Suspicious package outside Studio 5 a ‘hoax.’** Charges were filed against a 29-year-old man who carried a briefcase into the Equitable Building in Chicago and said it was a bomb Wednesday afternoon. Officials told a local reporter that the man was carrying a briefcase when he walked into the Italian Trade Commission on the 30th floor of the building and announced he had a bomb. The man was escorted out of the building, where he apparently dropped the briefcase. Police detonated the suspicious case Wednesday outside of building. They said the detonated briefcase contained wires, but no actual explosive device.

Source: <http://www.nbc5.com/news/14892383/detail.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

33. *December 19, Bulletin* – (Oregon) **Stolen treasure: Theft is a problem at Oregon**

monument. While the rules about what people can collect vary depending on who manages the land, the illegal removal of fossils from public lands in the John Day Basin is a continuing problem, said staff with both the Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management in Oregon. While people pocketing imprints of leaves are a concern in the monument, the theft of fossilized bones from mammals, including creatures distantly related to pigs, happens as well. When people remove fossils illegally, they take away part of the prehistoric story of Eastern Oregon that scientists are trying to piece together. In the fossil beds, there are places where scientists have taken pictures of fossils on the ground and come back later to find them gone, said the chief paleontologist at the monument. The fossil beds are unique because they present an incredibly long record of what lived in the area, from about 50 million years ago to about 3 million years ago. While other fossil deposits might be more detailed about a particular time, the national monument contains fossil records that can give scientists glimpses into the evolution of different animals or of entire ecosystems.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/getaways/344032_fossils20.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

34. *December 19, Associated Press* – (Kentucky) **Corps considers raising water levels.**

Lake Cumberland's diminished water levels could start rising slightly next year as workers continue repairing a leaking dam. The project manager for the repairs said he hopes enough progress occurs in the next couple of months to allow the lake to rise by 5 to 10 feet next year. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said the lake level will remain at about 680 feet above sea level. The program manager said that keeping the lake level at 680 feet until the \$309 million dam restoration project's expected completion between 2012 and 2014 is only "a remote possibility." Federal officials have warned that a failure of Wolf Creek Dam could flood towns and cities down the Cumberland River in Kentucky and Tennessee. The Corps released an environmental impact statement last week indicating its intention to stick with a lake level at 680 feet until it determines a different elevation "is more appropriate." The report said restoring the normal lake level was the "environmentally preferred plan," but "the consequences of a dam failure are so enormous that they outweigh the anticipated negative impacts to the environment."

Source: <http://www.fool.com/news/associated-press/2007/12/19/corpd-considers-raising-water-levels.aspx>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

*** With December 24 being announced as a Federal Holiday there will not be a DHS Daily Report disseminated on Monday December 24. The weekend report will be disseminated on December 26.**

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions: Send mail to NICCRports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-5389

Subscription and Distribution Information: Send mail to NICCRports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-5389 for more information.

Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.